

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14 (Previously Presented): A foldable ladder configured for installation in an opening to provide access between one floor or space and another floor or space, comprising:

an upper ladder section having at least one rail;

a lower ladder section having at least one rail;

a locking hinge connecting the rail of the upper ladder section to the rail of the lower ladder section and configured to allow the lower ladder section to fold relative to the upper ladder section; and

a second hinge connected to the upper ladder section, the second hinge configured to fixedly attach to a member associated with the opening, wherein

when the upper ladder section and the lower ladder section are fully unfolded, the locking hinge being adjustable between at least two configurations,

in a first configuration, the locking hinge completely preventing the lower ladder section from folding relative to the upper ladder section, and

in a second configuration, the locking hinge allowing the lower ladder section to fold relative to the upper ladder section.

15 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 14, wherein in the fully unfolded position, a total length of the foldable ladder is approximately equal to or greater than a length of the upper section plus a length of the lower section.

16 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 14, wherein the upper section includes a bracket configured for attachment to a panel associated with the opening.

17 (Canceled)

18 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 14, wherein the locking hinge is in the first configuration immediately after the upper ladder section and the lower ladder section being fully unfolded.

19 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 14, further comprising a hinge latch movable between a locked position an unlocked position, wherein biasing the hinge latch from the locked position to the unlocked position adjusts the locking hinge from the first configuration to the second configuration.

20 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 19, further comprising a biasing member biasing the hinge latch towards the locked position.

21 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 20, wherein upon the hinge latch being in the unlocked position, the biasing member prevented from biasing the hinge latch towards the locked position.

22 (Currently Amended): The foldable ladder according to claim 21, wherein upon the lower ladder section being folded relative to the upper ladder section, the biasing member allowed to bias biases the hinge latch towards the locked position.

23 (Previously Presented): A foldable ladder configured for installation in an opening to provide access between one floor or space and another floor or space, comprising:
an upper ladder section having at least one rail;
a lower ladder section having at least one rail;

a locking hinge connecting the rail of the upper ladder section to the rail of the lower ladder section and configured to allow the lower ladder section to fold relative to the upper ladder section, wherein

when the upper ladder section and the lower ladder section are fully unfolded, the locking hinge being adjustable between at least two configurations,

in a first configuration, the locking hinge completely preventing the lower ladder section from folding relative to the upper ladder section, and

in a second configuration, the locking hinge allowing the lower ladder section to fold relative to the upper ladder section; wherein

the locking hinge comprises:

a hinge latch positioned between the first and second opposing hinge plates, the hinge latch comprising an angle latch portion and the hinge latch being movable between a locked position and an unlocked position, wherein biasing the hinge latch from the locked position to the unlocked position adjusts the locking hinge from the first configuration to the second configuration;

a plurality of hinge plates;

a first biasing member biasing the hinge latch towards the locked position;

a second biasing member, wherein upon the hinge latch being in the unlocked position, the first biasing member being prevented by the second biasing member from biasing the hinge latch towards the locked position; and

a third biasing member, wherein upon rotational movement of the hinge plates the angled latch portion contacts the third biasing member allowing the first biasing member to bias the hinge latch towards the locked position.

24 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 23, wherein when the angled latch portion contacts the third biasing member the second biasing member disengages thereby allowing the first biasing member to bias the hinge latch towards the locked position.

25 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 23, wherein the first biasing member comprises a spring.

26 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 23, wherein the second biasing member is a spring plunger comprising a spring-loaded plunger ball.

27 Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 23, wherein the hinge plates comprise the third biasing member.

28 (Previously Presented): The foldable ladder according to claim 27, wherein the third biasing member is an angled plate portion of the hinge plates.